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# new EXCALIBUR



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DIRECT EDITION

# Previously in NEW EXCALIBUR:

In the aftermath of M-DAY, five disparate heroes are brought together in London: CAPTAIN BRITAIN, JUGGERNAUT, NOCTURNE, DAZZLER and SAGE. Together with government agent PETE WISDOM (an agent of MI-13, the division of Her Majesty's Intelligence Service devoted to the supernatural), they stand as a symbol of might in the service of right.

In the past, something has destroyed Camelot! King Arthur's legendary kingdom is no more. The only one left alive is SIR PERCY, a.k.a. THE BLACK KNIGHT! With the help of the LADY IN THE LAKE, Sir Percy's mind is transported into the future, and he tells New Excalibur that only they can save Arthur's kingdom.

So it's off to the past! Immediately, the team sees the mighty dragons responsible for the destruction and is able to save Merlin from their attack. Sage is able to deduce that these dragons aren't the usual breed of dragon, but what they are is anyone's guess...

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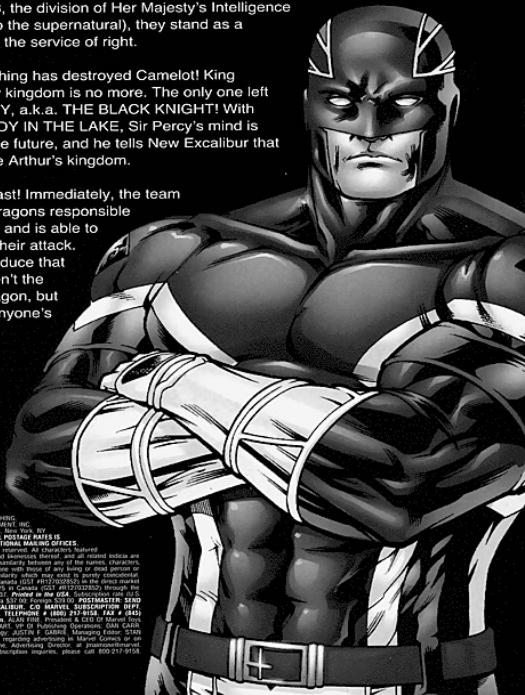
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# The LAST DAYS of Camelot

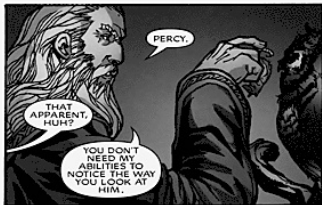
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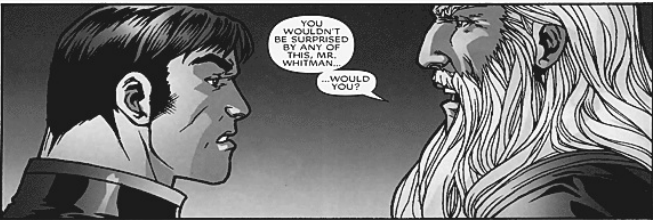
PARDON  
ME, MERLIN,  
BUT I'D LIKE TO  
SPEAK TO YOU  
ABOUT--

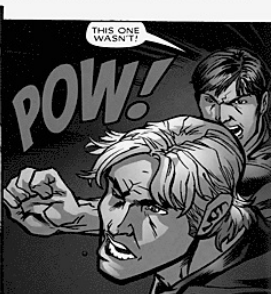
--OH,  
MY  
GOD.

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KING ARTHUR'S STABLE

I SEE YOU'VE MANAGED TO RETRIEVE THE ANIMAL.

WELL, THERE WAS NOT MUCH ELSE TO RETRIEVE. THE SCOUT WAS REDUCED TO NOTHING MORE THAN SMOLDERING BONES.

CLEARLY, HE MUST HAVE FOUND THE DRAGON'S LAIR.

ALL THE GOOD IT'LL DO US NOW.

IT'LL DO US PLENTY OF GOOD, YOUR MAJESTY.

THE SCOUT WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO FOUND THE LAIR.

DUDE, AM I SEEING THINGS OR IS THIS GUY DOING SOME KIND OF CRAZY, VULCAN MIND-MELD THING WITH A HORSE?

GEEZ... WHAT'S HE GONNA DO NEXT? THE MACARENA WITH SOME COWS?

BE QUIET, YOU TWO.

IT'S TOO LATE. THE DRAGONS ARE ALREADY ON THEIR WAY.

HALF A DAY'S JOURNEY...

...IN A CAVE... BY THE SEA...

...THE DRAGONS...









FEELS DIFFERENT,  
DOESN'T  
IT?

MORE  
POWERFUL.



IT'S  
STILL  
NEW.

ITS HUNGER  
IS STILL FRESH--  
NOT LIKE IN  
YOUR TIME.



YOU  
THINK YOU  
COULD  
HANDLE  
THIS?

I NEVER  
KNEW...

AND  
NOR DID I  
WANT YOU  
TO.

YOU  
THINK I  
DON'T KNOW  
WHAT THIS  
THING IS  
DOING TO  
ME?



YOU  
THINK I  
DON'T KNOW  
IT WILL  
EVENTUALLY  
COST ME  
MY SOUL?



THEN  
WHY...?

BECAUSE  
SOMEONE HAS  
TO.  
SOMEONE  
WHO CAN.



I HAVE  
A SECRET  
TO LET  
YOU IN ON,  
DANE...

...I AM  
NOT THE  
FIRST BLACK  
KNIGHT.



SO,  
FINALLY...



...YOU  
AND ME,  
HUH?

YOU AND ME WHAT?

LAST  
NIGHT. IF  
I'M NOT  
MISTAKEN,  
I WOKE UP  
IN YOUR  
ROOM...



OH  
POOR,  
POOR,  
DELUDED  
PETER...

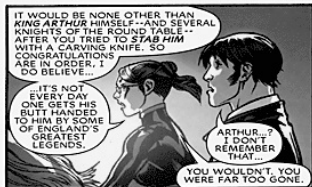


I FOUND YOU LYING IN A  
POOL OF YOUR OWN BODILY  
FLUIDS IN FRONT OF THE GOOD  
LADY GUINEVERE'S CHAMBERS. I  
TOOK PITY ON YOU, NOT WANTING  
TO SEE YOU TAKE ANOTHER  
TRASHING, AND HID YOU  
IN MY ROOM.

YOU  
SLEPT ON  
THE FLOOR.  
BY THE  
CHAMBER  
POT.



ANOTHER TRASHING?  
YOU'RE TALKING  
ABOUT THIS SHINER,  
I GATHER? WHO  
WAS IT THAT--

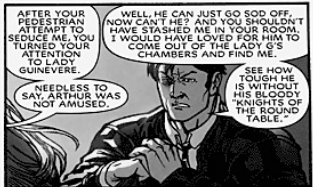


IT WOULD BE NONE OTHER THAN  
KING ARTHUR HIMSELF--AND SEVERAL  
KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE--  
AFTER YOU TRIED TO STAB HIM  
WITH A CARVING KNIFE. SO  
CONGRATULATIONS  
ARE IN ORDER... I  
DO BELIEVE...

...IT'S NOT  
EVERY DAY  
ONE GETS HIS  
BUTT HANDED  
TO HIM BY SOME  
OF ENGLAND'S  
GREATEST  
LEGENDS.

ARTHUR...?  
I DON'T  
REMEMBER  
THAT...

YOU WOULDN'T. YOU  
WERE FAR TOO GONE.



AFTER YOUR  
PEDESTRIAN  
ATTEMPT TO  
SEDUCE ME, YOU  
TURNED YOUR  
ATTENTION  
TO LADY  
GUINEVERE.

NEEDLESS TO  
SAY, ARTHUR WAS  
NOT AMUSED.

WELL, HE CAN JUST GO SOD OFF,  
NOW CAN'T HE? AND YOU SHOULDN'T  
HAVE STASHED ME IN YOUR ROOM.  
I WOULD HAVE LOVED FOR HIM TO  
COME OUT OF THE LADY G'S  
CHAMBERS AND FIND ME.

SEE HOW  
TOUGH HE  
IS WITHOUT  
HIS BLOODY  
"KNIGHTS OF  
THE ROUND  
TABLE."

ARTHUR WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE ONE COMING OUT OF HER CHAMBERS, ACTUALLY.



THAT WOULD'VE BEEN LANCELOT.

LANCELOT?

THEY LEFT TOGETHER AFTER THE FEAST. SHE WAS FAIRLY DISTRAUGHT OVER YOUR UNPLEASANTNESS, WENT TO HIM FOR A SHOULDER TO LEAN ON AND, WELL...



FIRST TIME, TOO, I BELIEVE.

YOU DON'T MEAN...?

YES, YOU, PETE WISDOM--HEAVILY INTOXICATED, SELF-CENTERED CREEP OF THE UNIVERSE--IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DRIVING GUINEVERE INTO LANCELOT'S ARMS--



--WHICH WILL ONE DAY CAUSE CIVIL WAR, WHICH WILL WEAKEN ARTHUR SO MUCH THAT HE WILL DIE IN BATTLE WITH MORDRED.

DESTROYING CAMELOT.



BUT HAVE YOU ACTUALLY CAUSED ALL THIS...? PERHAPS. PERHAPS NOT.



WE CAN'T REALLY KNOW. NOW CAN WE? AND I GATHER WE'LL NEVER REALLY KNOW.

THAT'S THE THING WITH TIME TRAVEL, ISN'T IT? WHY WE MUST BE EVER SO CAREFUL NOT TO MAKE DRUNKEN FOOLS OF OURSELVES AND PERHAPS CREATE A GREATER CATASTROPHE THAN THE ONE WE WERE SENT HERE TO PREVENT.

OH PLEASE, YOU SHOULD BE *THANKING* ME. NOW WE DON'T HAVE TO THROW OUT A LOT OF HISTORY BOOKS WHEN WE GET BACK.

TIME TRAVEL... NOTHING BUT ONE BIG, BLOODY HEADACHE, ANYWAY. SPEAKING OF WHICH...

...HAVEN'T THESE *NEANDERTHALS* INVENTED ASPIRIN YET?



NOPE. NOT FOR ANOTHER 1400 YEARS. GIVE OR TAKE.

GREAT... JUST BLOODY GREAT.







"EIGHT MEN  
HELD THE BLADE  
BEFORE I DID."

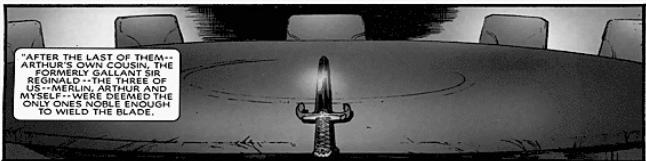


"EACH ONE WAS  
AN HONORABLE  
MAN...EACH ONE  
WAS A GOOD  
MAN."

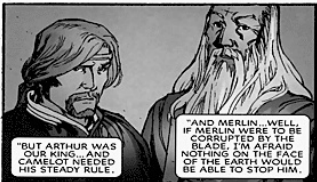
"YET EACH ONE,  
THE SWORD  
DROVE MAD."



"AND EACH  
ONE  
EVENTUALLY,  
HAD TO BE  
PUT DOWN."



"AFTER THE LAST OF THEM--  
ARTHUR'S OWN COUSIN, THE  
FORMERLY GALLANT SIR  
REGINALD--THE THREE OF  
US--MERLIN, ARTHUR AND  
MYSELF--WERE DEEMED THE  
ONLY ONES NOBLE ENOUGH  
TO WIELD THE BLADE."



"BUT ARTHUR WAS  
OUR KING...AND  
CAMELOT NEEDED  
HIS STEADY RULE."

"AND MERLIN...WELL,  
IF MERLIN WERE TO BE  
CORRUPTED BY THE  
BLADE, I'M AFRAID  
NOTHING ON THE FACE  
OF THE EARTH WOULD  
BE ABLE TO STOP HIM."



"AND SO,  
THERE WAS  
LITTLE  
CHOICE  
LEFT..."







"THEY'RE  
HERE."



NOW  
WE'RE SURE  
THE DRAGONS  
AREN'T HERE,  
RIGHT?



IF THEY  
WERE, WE'D  
BE DEAD BY  
NOW.

SPEAK  
FOR YOURSELF,  
LUV. I'M NOT ALL  
THAT WORRIED  
ABOUT A FEW  
OVERGROWN  
LIZARDS.



OH REALLY? FROM  
BABYLON, TO CHINA,  
TO EVEN ASGARD,  
DRAGONS HAVE BEEN  
A FORCE TO BE  
RECKONED WITH FOR  
CENTURIES.

I DOUBT THEY  
WOULD FRET  
TOO MUCH OVER  
A HUNG-OVER  
ENGLISHMAN.



OH, BUT  
THEY'D BETTER.  
I'M GETTING  
MY SECOND  
WIND--

WAIT!



DO THAT  
AGAIN.

WHY?

I  
CAUGHT  
A GLIMPSE  
OF SOME-  
THING UP  
AHEAD...



BLOODY  
HELL!

















"WHEN WE FOUND THAT THE REAL DRAGONS OF THIS ERA WERE SLAIN, WE WERE BAFFLED. ALL BECAME AS CLEAR AS DAY, HOWEVER, WHEN WE FOUND...

"...THE  
SPACESHIP."

SPACESHIP?!  
THEN THEY'RE...

ALIENS. YES,  
MAKLUANS, TO  
BE PRECISE.

AND IF YOU'RE  
STILL NOT GETTING  
IT... DOES THE NAME  
FIN FANG FOOM  
RING A BELL?

"FOOM AND  
OTHER MAKLUANS  
LIKE HIM ARE  
DRAGON-LIKE  
BEINGS WHO ONCE  
INVADED ANCIENT  
CHINA AROUND  
THIS TIME PERIOD.

"IT STANDS TO REASON  
THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN  
OTHER SHIPS SENT AS PART  
OF A GLOBAL INVASION AND  
OBVIOUSLY THERE WAS...

"...THIS ONE  
HERE IN  
ANCIENT  
ENGLAND."

IT WAS  
FORMOSAN  
HERB THAT WAS  
SUCCESSFULLY  
USED TO PUT  
FOOM TO SLEEP  
IN CHINA, AND  
SO...

SO  
YOU  
SAVED  
US!

YOU  
SAVED  
US  
ALL!

NOW IF THE GOOD LADY OF THE LAKE WILL BE SO KIND AND GRACE US WITH HER MAGIC...



...OFF YOU GO.

WE'LL MISS YOU.

NO MORE THAN CAMELOT WILL MISS YOU.



KEEP AN EYE ON THINGS OVER HERE, WILL YOU?

AYE... AND MAKE SURE YOU DO THE SAME ON YOUR SIDE, BROTHER.



SO, YOUR ASSESSMENT, OLD FRIEND...

...DO YOU THINK DANE WHITMAN IS READY FOR WHAT NOW AWAITS HIM? IS HE READY TO DISCOVER WHAT BEING A BLACK KNIGHT TRULY MEANS?

AYE, I DO.



END.



## TEAM DCP

KURT\_WAGNER AND KRYPTONIA  
(*edits*) (scan)